

New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1867.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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 We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

Advertisements for this week's issue of THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE must be handed in by day.

THE EXPECTED VETO.

Washington advices concur in anticipating a veto of the Reconstruction bill. It is expected to be sent in to-morrow or Wednesday.

We can regard this veto no otherwise than as a very grave mistake and a National misfortune. And, hopeless as may be the task, we cannot refrain from showing why this bill should not be vetoed.

Let us begin by admitting that the terms of Reconstruction proposed in the bill are harsher than we wish they were—as they are harsher than they would have been had not the Democratic minority of the House chosen to follow the lead of Mr. Thaddeus Stevens. They knew—for he frankly avowed—that his object was to make the bill harsher; yet they saw fit to unite with a minority of the Republicans in voting down the Blaine-Sherman proposition, after it had passed the Senate by 29 to 10; every Republican Senator voting for it. The Democrats so voted as to compel the majority of the Republicans to accept such a plan of Reconstruction as was satisfactory to Mr. Stevens or have none at all. The fact that a majority of the Republicans are at heart with Blaine and Sherman, and not with Stevens, is one to be regarded in acting on the main question.

As to the Military provisions of the bill now before the President, it must be considered that they amount in substance to this—*The President is clothed with power to maintain order and protect loyal men from outrage and murder in the South.* The President is to select the commandants of the several districts; he is to instruct them in their duties; he is to supervise their official actions, and to revise their judgments. What chance is there of wrong and oppression?

Are not these provisions needed? Read Mr. Pike's report on the murder of the three Union soldiers on the Savannah river, the escape of these murderers from justice through a writ of habeas corpus issued by Judge Hall of Delaware, and the general satisfaction with which their return was greeted by their ex-Rebel neighbors. Is it possible that any man who calls himself a Unionist will say that the punishment of such murderers can safely or should be left to the local authorities of the South? And, if not, who can say that the military provisions of the Reconstruction bill are unneeded or too stringent?

Again: No one will contend that no negroes have been killed since the surrender of the Rebel armies. We know that negroes have been killed Whites, and have been punished therefore, as was right. We know that Whites have killed many negroes, and have not been punished. Weeks ago, we asked any one to point us to a single instance wherein the ex-Rebel slayer of a negro had been arrested, tried, convicted, and punished, by the local authorities at the South. The answer is blank silence. The fact is virtually conceded that the ex-Rebel Whites at the South will not—at all events, do not—punish the assassins of Union soldiers or of negroes.

Need we argue that those assassins must and will be punished, even though it should be necessary to this end that judges should be hurled from the bench and consigned to the dungeon? If there is anything on which the loyal heart of the country is fixed, it is that there shall be law and order at the South, and that the Rebel assassins of loyal men shall be punished. And, if you do not object to this, why object to the Military features of the Reconstruction bill? They are essentially provisional—transitory—transitional. Who need dread their operation?

Now as to Reconstruction: will those who are advising the President to veto this bill tell him what is to be gained by "the South" from such a veto? We ask a practical question and desire a practical answer. If this were the beginning of a controversy, it might be well to veto by way of taking an appeal from Congress to the People. But the appeal has been taken; it was fairly, boldly made by the President a year ago, and the verdict is overwhelmingly against him. It cannot be mistaken, nor argued down. The People have decided that the terms of Reconstruction shall be settled by their representatives in Congress. If it was right to make the appeal, how can it be wrong to abide the decision?

The XIth Congress is already chosen—in so far, at least, that its political character is fully decided. It is notorious that the next Congress will be quite as Radical as that which closes with this week. Evidently, nothing is to be gained for "the South" by delay.

Look, now, at the fifth and sixth sections of the bill, and note that they recognize and legalize the existing State Governments at the South—recognize them, indeed, as "provisional"; but who ever contended that they were more? We claim that this act legalizes all that has been or may be done by those governments, except that which Congress may expressly overrule. Is this nothing?

As for the residue of these sections, it is almost wholly promissory or permissive in its character—that is, it authorizes "the South" to reconstruct herself in a certain way, but commands nothing, compels nothing. If "the South" does not choose to accept the proffered conditions, she declines them, and remains as she is. Why deny her a chance to say whether she will or will not be so reconstructed?

The exclusions and disfranchisements stipulated are, in the nature of things, temporary. They are sure to be remitted whenever we shall have fully returned to order and peace. And you cannot destroy the natural weight and influence of able and wise men by prescribing that they shall neither vote nor hold office. You are quite likely to increase them. A law prescribing that an ounce shall outweigh a pound would not avail.

Profoundly believing that the President's approval of this bill would be a great step toward the restoration of our country to harmony and

true peace, we cannot quite forego the hope that he will sign it. And we will thank any one who has his ear to remind him of this anecdote:

When Mr. Douglas had canvassed Illinois against Lincoln in 1858, and won his reelection as U. S. Senator, he came on to Washington, and, like a good Democrat, called on the head of his party, President Buchanan. After mutual greetings had passed, the President was first to broach the all-absorbing topic: "Mr. Douglas, what can we do with this distracting Kansas-Lecompton question?" "Why, Mr. President," responded the Little Giant, "I can imagine that we should have some trouble with that matter up at the Capitol; but I don't see how you should have any." "For the Constitution says," Congress shall "make all needful regulations respecting the Territories," but it says nothing about the President's making any."

Surely, when the People have decided a matter on appeal, and have affirmed the judgment of Congress, the President may justly feel discharged from further responsibility.

THIS CITY AT ALBANY.

Our Legislature meets this evening after its recess, with more bills on its general orders than can be, and many that ought not to be, enacted. Believing that there are some members of either House who mean to legislate for the public good, and not to fill their own pockets, nor those of their cronies, we proffer them a few suggestions with regard to legislation for this City. They must and shall be brief.

I. We do pressingly need some means of more expeditious transit from the lower to the upper part of this island, and so out of town. An hour is now consumed in conveying a passenger from the business portion of our City to Harlem or Morrisania, when thirty minutes, at the outside, should suffice. There is no difference of opinion here on this point. As to the precise mode, we beg you to hear the advocates of all, and give us the best. We have been favorably impressed with that which avoids the great thoroughfares altogether and goes through the center of blocks; but, if any other should seem preferable, give us that one. Do not let the squabbles of rival projectors keep us out of some road that will take us up town and out of town in half the time now required. We cannot wait even another year.

II. As to Horse Railroads traversing our streets, we cannot stand another, nor a piece of one. Do not extend one so much as a block. We have too many now. Our streets are so embowered and blocked by them already that they are scarcely passable by ordinary conveyances. There are six rail tracks in some streets, rendering it difficult to avoid being run over by one car while seeking access to another. These cars are overcrowded at some hours, and would be if there were double tracks in every street, because Horse Railroads do not meet the public want. We pray you not to charter another.

III. As to Commissions, we really need a Board of Public Works and a Board of Piers and Wharves, and we need a complete overhauling of our Market system by some means. At present, our Markets are at one end of the City and their customers mainly at the other; so that carts filled with meats and vegetables fill our great thoroughfares every morning, maddening and obstructing the main stream of travel down town. Our Markets would disgrace Abyssinia; yet the ground they cover would sell for more than enough to build good ones where they are needed. Yet it seems to us that a Board of Public Works ought to be charged with this whole matter, and save the expense of a special Market Commission.

IV. There are various applications for increasing the number of our Policemen, increasing the pay of Firemen, Health Commissioners, &c., &c. We beg you to set your faces sternly against them all. The times are hard, taxes high, and we can't afford to increase them. They should be reduced if possible; indeed, they soon must be. If any bill involves an increase of taxation, put your foot on it! Our office-holders can better live on their present compensation than the people can afford to pay them more. We support certain measures above commended because we believe they will reduce taxes rather than increase them; but if any bill proposes to add a dollar to the public burdens without bringing two into the treasury, we wish that bill defeated.

V. As to our Excise Law, better let well alone. The Republicans must lose votes by it anyhow; but if we hold on to the law and enforce it, we shall lose less than if we attempt to split the difference between right and wrong by allowing the grogshops to be open part of each Sunday. Every one interested in the Sunday Traffic will still vote against us; while the relaxation will disgust and repel some who will go with us if we stand by the law as it is. Sunday is no longer a day of riot and debauchery; it is a day of quiet and good order; and thus let it continue. Rum is now subordinate to law; let it so remain. Any change in the law would give a new chance to our Cardozos and other nullifiers to paralyze its operation. Let us have a few months of external decency on Sundays, and then see if the people vote to return to the bad, old way. Give them a fair trial of both before they are called again to decide between them.

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

To-day the Legislature reassembles, sufficiently refreshed, we trust, by its holiday, to work with energy. In both Houses the Constitutional Convention is made a special order at issue in respect to it is the first business of the Legislature. The first business of the Legislature, and the various plans have been fully debated, and are well understood; nothing remains but to vote upon them. We think that the general opinion of the Republican party in the State sustains Gov. Fenton's plan for the division of 33 delegates at large between the two great parties, and we do not doubt that it has a majority in the Legislature. It has also been endorsed by our Union Republican General Committee, and whatever objections may be made to the gift of 10 delegates to the Democrats, none can be urged of sufficient weight to make advisable further postponement. We think, also, that the delegates should be elected from Assembly districts, and that this plan is generally considered the better. But the important matter now is the immediate passage of a bill to organize the Convention. Either of the plans will provide for the satisfactory representation of the people, and a Republican majority is certain.

We presume that each House still adheres to its original plan. Each then should pass its bill to-morrow, and then if a Committee of Conference is needed it may at once be appointed. There is no sound reason why the Senate and the Assembly should not agree without further difficulty; why a bill cannot be passed by the Legislature and signed by the

Governor before Thursday. The earnest desire of the people of the State that the Constitution should be revised, must be trifled with no longer. Half of the session passed without any decision of our legislators, who were in more haste to vote themselves a holiday than the people a Convention. To redeem their neglect of business, they must work in earnest, and we urge that in neither house unnecessary debate be renewed to-morrow, but that the demand of the people be properly and promptly answered.

WHO DELAYS THE TARIFF BILL?

We have never known the Free Traders more active than in their opposition to the proposed Tariff. It is a military principle that the smaller the force the greater should be the energy, and just in the proportion that Free Trade loses credit with the people, it increases its efforts to postpone the consideration of the Tariff by Congress. Against the overwhelming proof the statistics of business for forty years afford, the Free-Trade argument cannot stand; and though its organs continue to send out pamphlets and handbills in which protection to American industry is held up as the parent of all evil, they scarcely hope to reverse the decision of the country. They cannot succeed with the people. They turn to Congress, not hoping to convince its intelligence, but only to delay its action. We look to the majority in both Houses, who believe in Protection, to disappoint these schemes.

The failure to pass the Tariff bill in the Senate last year, its dangerous postponement in the House now, are probably results of Free Trade intrigue, which, unable to fight the bill on general principles, would kill it by continual amendments. For six months it has been the policy of Free Trade journals to excite jealousies and rivalries among our manufacturers. They have sought to set industry against industry, and as there can be no bill framed that will exactly suit everybody, they have to some extent succeeded. Still, it is the almost unanimous demand of all branches of American industry that the Tariff bill shall be passed. Nine-tenths of the people are opposed to giving up all protection, merely because one-tenth imagine they will have too much or too little. The country demands the passage of some Tariff bill by this Congress, and we warn the House that in attempting to make the bill better by a series of little amendments to which there seems no end, it may end by making no bill whatever. The sculptor who, in the vain wish to make his statue perfect, chipped the marble away, is a bad example for our legislators.

Mr. Conkling, on Saturday, vainly tried to induce the House to finish with the Tax bill, that it might consider the Tariff to-day. No new principle has been introduced by the amendments of the Committee of Ways and Means, and no important discrimination has been made. Had Congress months to discuss these details, we should not object, but as it has but a few days we caution it that every Free Trader is laboring to prolong the debate. There are plenty of gentlemen in the House, who would gladly discuss till the end of the session the duty on buttons or brass tumbles, but we appeal to the majority which does believe honestly in Protection to press the bill to a vote, without waiting another day.

MR. DISRAELI'S REFORM SPEECH.

Our mail advices from England show that the interest of the Reform drama is increasing. On the 11th inst., Mr. Disraeli, in an elaborate speech, a portion of which we reprint this morning, announced the intentions of the Government, and described the nature of the resolutions they intended to introduce on the subject of Reform. The speech, it appears, has created great dissatisfaction, and the course of the Government is generally condemned by the press. Even *The Times* pronounces it unsatisfactory, and some of the papers hint at the probability of a Ministerial crisis, or a speedy break up of the Cabinet from internal dissensions.

From Mr. Disraeli's labored speech it is clear that the teachings of experience have had no salutary effect upon the Tories. They are blind to the signs of the times, and seem as if they cannot believe that the people are in earnest in demanding their rights. Mr. Disraeli boldly reiterates the old Tory doctrine that the elective franchise is a popular privilege and not a democratic right, and he makes a ridiculous attempt to prove that universal suffrage means class domination. His reference to the United States and our House of Representatives is most unhappy, and betrays an amount of ignorance astonishing in a statesman of his accomplishments and reputation. It is laughable to hear this great Tory chief telling the Commons of England that the American House of Representatives "is elected by one class," and to find such a statement received with "loud cheers" from his followers. Surely he ought to know that our House is elected by the whole people, and that it represents every interest in the country without respect to classes. He ought to know that in the sense in which he employs the term, in the sense in which it is understood by his aristocratic compeers, we have indeed no "class" in the United States. With us the majority rules, and, according to the popular principles underlying the British Constitution, it ought to do so in England likewise. There, however, the Constitution has been perverted to subserve the interests of the few at the expense of the many, to put power in the hands of the minority, and enable them to override the will of the majority. The Reformers are laboring to restore the Constitution to its pristine simplicity and purity, and they are resisted by the Tories because it is felt by the "higher orders" that success in that work will lead to the downfall of class legislation, and will place the entire people of the country where the Constitution intended they should stand—on the same political level. It is evident from the tenor of Mr. Disraeli's reference to the United States that the Tories are still haunted by the dread of the "Americanizing" influence in remodeling the institutions of the country. If they were not blinded, they would see that what in our political system is most objectionable to them, is the very foundation of the Constitution about whose merits and glories they are so boastful.

An inflationist contemporary indulges in declamatory observations on our opposition to issuing greenbacks to pay the National loans. We do not want any portion of those loans, whether 6 per cent. compounds, or 7.30s, or 5-20s, paid by more additions to the currency; at least till we have resumed specie payments. This is where our opposition begins and ends on that subject. We say, pay your 6 per cent. legal tenders, as fast as they become due, from money on hand in the Treasury, so far as it will go, and if the supply is insufficient, borrow on ordinary loan enough

to take up the balance. Issue no more legal tenders, at least till you are ready to pay specie for them when presented; and don't stand still, nor take the back track, but go straight forward to resumption. The idea which underlies the proposition to wait for the country to grow into specie payments, without taking any steps to secure that result, means indefinite suspension. And the proposition to pay any part of the interest-bearing obligations of the Government by issuing more greenbacks, is just as applicable to the whole as a part; and, in its logical application, means the conversion of our whole debt into irredeemable paper money—in other words, repudiation.

THE OLD FIGHT.

The Chicago Tribune having had much to say of the absurdities, crochets, extravagances, and ultraisms of H. G. on the subject of Protection and the Tariff, we were impelled to ask its editor to answer frankly and squarely these questions:

"Where do these notions of H. G. differ from the doctrines and views which impelled and justified the passage of the Tariff of 1842 and the support of Henry Clay for President in the election of 1840? do they emanate wholly or from the doctrines maintained by Abraham Lincoln in canvassing Illinois for Clay in that contest? And wherein does the line of argument now held by our Chicago namesake differ from that of Mr. Clay's Illinois opponents in the canvass aforesaid?"

—To which our Chicago namesake responds in these words:

"If this means anything, it means that if Henry Clay, H. G., and Mr. Lincoln, committed an error in 1844, and got overwhelmingly beaten in New-York and Illinois, and also in the United States, they ought to do the same thing again. What is the next question?"

—The Chicago Tribune thus admits that the Protectionist views of H. G. in 1847 are substantially if not precisely those held by him in 1844, in common with Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln. We beg those who honor the memory of Clay and Lincoln to bear this in mind.

But our Chicago namesake is all wrong in his facts. Henry Clay was not "overwhelmingly beaten" in 1844, whether in New-York or in the Union. He was so beaten in Illinois, because her population was far less intelligent, and largely of different stock, than that which has since made her populous and powerful. But the popular vote of New-York was thus cast:

Clay, 222,482; Polk, 257,588; Birney, 15,812.

And that of the entire Union was:

Clay, 1,288,533; Polk, 1,527,929; Birney, 62,309.

It was the Birney diversion that barely bent us in this State and in the Union. Had there been no third candidate, Mr. Clay must have been elected.

As it was, we were beaten by the gross fraud of insisting that Polk was as much a Protectionist as Clay. By that bold imposture, we were swindled out of an overwhelming triumph at the October election in Pennsylvania—a triumph that would have given us not only that State, but New-York, Indiana, Michigan, and Louisiana, also in the Presidential vote the next month. These States hung on a pivot, and our defeat in Pennsylvania in October inclined them against us in November. We were beaten by the nomination of Dallas as a blind, by the Kane letter, by the Hughes debate, and by such arts as were summed up in the Pennsylvania ditty which ran—

"Poor cooney Whigs!
 What snare you've laid out so blue!
 We will have Polk and Dallas,
 And the Tariff of '42."

—We give the Free Traders fair notice that the Tariff issue is to be tried over again so soon as the decks can be cleared of the debris of Slavery, and that cheating cannot win twice.

THE NORTH GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

The speech by which the King of Prussia on the 9th of February closed the Prussian Diet, as well as the one by which he on Saturday opened the first Parliament of the North German Confederation, express great confidence in the speedy establishment of German unity. If a full agreement between the Government and the liberal representatives of a majority of the people has not yet been obtained, and if the unfriendly disposition of some of the minor Governments toward Prussia has not yet been fully removed, so much progress has of late been made by mutual concession in the reconciliation of all the different parties, that the new Parliament must be said to open under the most favorable auspices.

The President of the Second Prussian Chamber, who is a prominent member of the Party of Progress, referred to the past session of the Diet as one inspiring great confidence in the future. The King spoke of the important concessions which the Government has made to the majority of the Second Chamber and of the many measures which have been adopted by the Legislatures and sanctioned by the Government. All this seems to indicate that both the Government and the Liberal majority of the German Parliament intend to continue pursuing a policy of reconciliation for the purpose of accomplishing what both assert to be their aim: the unity of Germany.

Nor do we anticipate any great trouble between the representatives from the different States. In Saxony, it was recently reported by a Cable dispatch, that all the non-Prussian candidates had been elected; but even the party which has thus been successful in Saxony has declared that it loyally accepts the new German Confederation. The draft of a new Federal Constitution, which has been made by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries at Berlin, seems to have received the unanimous adhesion of all the Governments. Thus there is a spirit of mutual concession manifesting itself everywhere, and promising good results.

Professor Agassiz's last lecture on "Monkeys, and the Native Inhabitants of South America" will be delivered in the Hall of Cooper Institute, to-morrow evening. This will be the lecture of the course, which has, thus far, been numerously attended by lovers of science and useful knowledge.

SOUTHERN RELIEF.—Mr. Richard O'Gorman delivered a lecture last evening at Cooper Institute, under the auspices of the Bloomingdale Catholic Association, in aid of the suffering poor of the South.

RAILROAD BRIDGE REBUILT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The amount of National bank currency issued during the week was \$199,405. Total amount issued to date, \$201,641,621. From this is to be deducted the currency returned, including worn-out notes, amounting to \$2,811,092, leaving in actual circulation at this date \$228,829,529. The disbursements for the week were as follows: War Department, \$2,547,098; Navy Department, \$885,834; Interior Department, \$1,677,129; total, \$5,069,959. The amount of fractional currency issued to the Treasury from the Printing Bureau for the week ending Saturday was \$29,227.25. The shipments of fractional currency for the week were as follows: To Assistant-Treasurer at New-York, \$10,000; to National banks and others, \$19,227.25; total, \$29,227.25. The receipts from internal revenue on Saturday were \$234,824, making the total amount for the week \$2,469,229.

The following are the receipts from customs for the week ending Feb. 18: From Boston, \$26,019.00; New-York, \$2,917,205; Philadelphia, \$206,570.25; Baltimore, \$74,441.45; New-Orleans, \$125,124.65.

DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—Alexander Papp, a laborer in this city, died last night of hydrophobia, having been bitten about 10 weeks since.

Amusements.

WINTER GARDEN.
 THIS EVENING—MERCANTILE OF VENICE. Mr. Edwin Booth.

THEATRE DE LA CROIX.
 THIS EVENING—THE BLACK CROOK—Great Parlor Ball.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.
 THIS EVENING—A JAMBOREE. Mr. J. W. Wallack.

BROADWAY THEATRE.
 THIS EVENING—THE CIRCLE OF COCO OLAWAN'S DREAM—CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wilson.

NEW-YORK THEATRE.
 THIS EVENING—KENTWORTH (Bellevue)—THE PRETTY BOSS BREAKER. Lady Don.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.
 THIS EVENING—STREETS OF NEW-YORK.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM.
 DAY AND EVENING—CHRISTIAN MARTYRS—TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND CHURCHES—VAN AMBERG'S COLLECTION OF WILD ANIMALS.

BOVARY THEATRE.
 THIS EVENING—OVAL THE GREAT—THE EXILES DAUGHTER. Mr. W. H. Wallack, Miss Fanny Herring.

NEW-YORK CIRCUS.
 THIS EVENING—SPEAR OF THE SILVER SHOWER—ACROBATIC AND EQUESTRIAN PERFORMS. New-York Circus Troupe.

GERMAN STADI THEATRE.
 THIS EVENING—DON CARLOS—Mr. Bogdan Danov.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
 THIS EVENING—TWELFTH MONDAY POPULAR CONCERT—Messrs. Parry, Mr. Hill, Mr. Ross, Mr. Colby.

STEVENS' ROOMS.
 THIS AFTERNOON—SINGING AND PEASIE'S THIRD MORNING CONCERT—Miss Matilda Taylor, Mr. W. W. Colby.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS.
 THIS EVENING—CITIZEN-LEON—MADAGASCAR BALLET TROUPE.

DORVORTH HALL.
 THIS EVENING—MR. HUNTZ, THE ILLUSTRATION. Prof. H. Huntz, etc.

CLINTON HALL.
 THIS EVENING—DR. HUBBARD'S POPULAR LECTURES ON THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

UNION HALL.
 THIS EVENING—BUNYAN TABLEAU. Corner Twenty-third and Broadway.

FIFTH AVE. OPERA HOUSE.
 THIS EVENING—THE BLACK CROOK—THE GREAT OCEAN RACE. Ruffin, Griffin & Chisley's Minstrels. New Arts, Music, Singing, Dancing, etc.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS.
 DAY AND EVENING—Bloss Brothers' "Horse Fair," etc., at Decker's Art Rooms, No. 410 Broadway.

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 THIS EVENING—DR. HUBBARD'S POPULAR LECTURES ON THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

UNION HALL.
 THIS EVENING—BUNYAN TABLEAU. Corner Twenty-third and Broadway.

FIFTH AVE. OPERA HOUSE.
 THIS EVENING—THE BLACK CROOK—THE GREAT OCEAN RACE. Ruffin, Griffin & Chisley's Minstrels. New Arts, Music, Singing, Dancing, etc.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS.
 DAY AND EVENING—Bloss Brothers' "Horse Fair," etc., at Decker's Art Rooms, No. 410 Broadway.

THEATRE DE LA CROIX.
 THIS EVENING—THE BLACK CROOK—THE GREAT